Import of Gold

2234. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of gold brought in India at Mumbai Airport by the Non-Resident Indians during each of the last three years under the liberalised gold import scheme;

(b) whether the Government are aware that gold import scheme which was introduced to curb gold smuggling is in fact being used by smuggling gangs by making use of NRIs returning from gulf countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the smuggling of Gold through NRIs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The quantity of gold imported through Mumbai Airport by Non Resident Indians during the last three years under the liberalised gold import scheme is as under :

Year	Quantity (in Kg.)
1993-94	44047.118
1994-95	37709.050
1995-96	3081.809
1996-97 (upto 31.10.96)	41825.973

(b) and (c). Recently in some of the cases investigated by the customs authorities, it appeared that the returning Non Resident Indians have been used to carry gold for a consideration in terms of air-fare and/or cash compensation.

The main objectives of the liberalised Gold Import Scheme, interalia, were to encourage the import of gold through licit channels against payment of customs duty in foreign exchange and to discourage smuggling of gold. It has been reported that the introduction of this Scheme has had a healthy impact on checking clandestine imports of gold. At present, there is no proposal before the Government to review this Scheme.

[Translation]

Credit to Foreign Trade

2235. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to instruct all the commercial banks to sanction 15 percent of total bank loan for foreign trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any fixed percentage of bank loan to foreign trade is existing at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of loans given for foreign trade during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). RBI guidelines prescribe raising the target to export credit from existing 10 percent to 12 percent of net bank credit of scheduled commercial banks to be achieved by the end of March, 1997. The export credit outstanding of scheduled commercial banks as on 18.3.1994, 31.3.1995 and 29.3.1996 was Rs. 17086 Crores, Rs. 25,051 Crores and Rs. 29,692 Crores respectively.

Export of Agricultural Products

2236. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether possibilities to export agricultural products from Gujarat and Maharashtra especially from the tribal and backward areas and also their sales in the international market have been ascertained;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Union Government propose to find out the possibilities in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e). Some of the agricultural products identified for exports from Gujarat and Maharashtra (including the tribal and backward areas) are as under :

Maharashtra	Mangoes, Grapes, Strawberries, Chikoo, Citrus fruits, Bananas, Pomegranates, Ber, Onions, Okra, Beans, Floriculture items and Cotton
Gujarat	Cumin, Fennel, Garlic, Chillies, derivatives of castor seeds, Bananas, Chikoo, Guava, Onions, HPS Groundnuts and deoiled cakes.

[English]

Deposits in Banks/F.Is

2237. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount deposited in Nationalised Banks and other Financial Institutions in the country, Bank-wise and Institution-wise;